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MEDIA RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA TO HOST NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

MISSOULA -

The University of Montana's Wilderness Institute will host a three-day national conference, "On Common Ground," Dec. 9-11 at the University of Montana.

The conference, co-sponsored by the ASUM and the Wilderness Institute and partially funded by a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities, will explore the common ground between agriculture and wilderness. Among the topics to be discussed at the conference will be ways in which technology and economic development shape agriculture and wild land.

Lt. Gov. George Turman will deliver the conference's opening address. Featured speakers will include nationally known writers and poets Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder. Berry, who has published more than 20 books, won an award for his work from the National Institute of Arts and Letters and is a leading spokesman for the family farm.

Snyder, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his book "Turtle Island," draws on his experience with Forest Service crews in the Northwest as well as travel and study in the Orient for his writing. In defining his relationship to wild land, he says, "The reason I am here is because I wish to bring a voice from

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